

Joseph Emmett Jordan, Jr. (aka Joe or J.E., and to a select few, “Dakie”) was born and raised in Thomaston, Georgia. He died at 85 years old on December 8, 2020. Joe inherited solid work ethics and a devotion to family from his parents, Emmett and Flossie (Keener) Jordan. His childhood was remarkable for the close bond he shared with his brother, Charles.

After graduating from R.E. Lee High School where he was an ROTC officer, Joe attended Georgia Southwestern before completing his studies in accounting at Georgia State University. While at Georgia State, he was a founding member and officer in the honor organization Beta Alpha Psi.

Joe married his high school sweetheart, Yvonne Smith, while he was hard at work in college. Upon his death, they had shared an astonishing 67 years together! Joe and Yvonne settled down in Decatur, Georgia where they raised their four children, Steve (Suzanne Roush), Beth (Chuck Hurst), Jenni (Corey Abel), and Patricia (Muse Sawyer). Once their nest was empty, Joe and Yvonne moved to Greensboro and built a home on Lake Oconee. This home has been a place for their ever-growing family to gather and create new memories. In Greensboro, Joe became a treasured and active part of the community.

Joe never shied away from being uncomfortable. He was always seeking to expand his understanding of himself and our world. As an accountant, he was a trusted ally who was adept with the ever evolving reality of tax code. Because he was intimidated by public speaking, Joe bravely joined Toastmasters. In recent months, he studied with members of his church to understand racism and white privilege. He incorporated what he learned into his weekly ZOOM sessions with his family.

Anytime that you asked J.E. how he was doing, you were guaranteed an answer that would make you smile and let you know that his day was better because you were part of it. When asked “Are you busy?”, he always answered “Never too busy for you.” Whether on his Gold Wing, as the captain of his boat, traveling with his wife, spending time with his grandkids, or in the air flying a Cessna, he was sure to be in-the-moment. While J.E. saw much of the world, he was never happier than when he could return to the comforts of his own bed and the home he shared with Yvonne.

J.E. lived a spiritual life. He prayed, meditated, and read the Bible every day. He was a longtime member of the altar guild and a friend to every Priest who led his church, The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. For many years, Joe volunteered for the Church’s thrift store. After J.E. “retired”, he volunteered for the community as a driver for Meals on Wheels.

J.E. was preceded in death by his parents, Emmett and Flossie, his brother, Charles, and his son-in-law, Corey. While J.E. has left this world to go on to the next, he will be terribly missed by his wife and children, as well as his grandchildren, Olivia, Audrey, Lili, and Oliver. He was a beloved uncle, cousin, in-law, family member, and dear friend to so many.

We will miss his deep and kind voice, his warm hugs, his steady hands, his gentle guidance, his sense of humor, and simply being in his presence. We will love him forever and we are deeply grateful to have had him in our lives.

The PAN Foundation made it possible for us to have Joe with us as long as we did through grants to pay for the prescription medicines that he needed to treat leukemia. If you are moved to make a donation in his memory, please consider supporting their crucial work.